

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/059 W

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R 171600Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7276

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITIES OPEN TOMORROW - TROUBLE EXPECTED

REF CAIRO 10283 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON EVE OF OPENING OF UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC YEAR, GOE IS STILL ANNOUNCING PLACATORY PLANS FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE AND PRIMIN HAS

REMINDED STUDENT THAT THEIR DUTY IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO UNITY OF EGYPTIAN RANKS. EMBASSY BELIEVES TROUBLE IS LIKELY TO ERUPT ON CAMPUSES IN NEXT FEW DAYS. PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER 18 SPEECH WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE FURTHER WARNING TO LEFTISTS THAT HE WILL NOT TOLERATE CAMPUS VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. WE UNDERSTAND GOE AT THIS ELEVENTH HOUR IS STILL QUIETLY CONSIDERING POSTPONING OPENING OF UNIVERSITIES TO OCTOBER 24. HOWEVER, CAIRO UNIVERSITY VICE PRESIDENT TOLD US OCTOBER 17 THAT UNIVERSITIES WILL CONVOKE AS SCHEDULED TOMORROW, OCTOBER 18. LAST DITCH FLURRY OF PLACATORY GESTURES TO STUDENTS ARE  
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ANNOUNCED IN PRESS TODAY: TWO HUNDRED BUSES WILL BE AVAILABLE

FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION, NEW FUND TOTALLING LE 1,250,000 HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE, HOSPITAL WILL BE ESTABLISHED NEXT YEAR IN CAIRO FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, LABORATORY EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN ORDERED TO IMPROVE SCIENCE FACULTIES, AND UNIVERSITY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS WILL BE IMPROVED.

2. PRIMIN SALIM HIMSELF MET AGAIN OCTOBER 16 WITH STUDENT LEADERS AND HIS REMARKS ARE REPORTED AT LENGTH ON AHRAH'S FRONT PAGE. PRIMIN SPOKE BOTH ABOUT SPECIFIC STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES AND ALSO ABOUT EGYPT'S FOREIGN AND INTERNAL POLICIES. EMPHASIZING THE NECESSITY TO IMPROVE THE ADMITTEDLY POOR CONDITIONS AT OVERCROWDED EGYPTIAN CAMPUSES, SALIM POINTEDLY AFFIRMED STUDENT RIGHT TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE LEGITIMATE RPT LEGITIMATE INSTITUTIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE IN MAY 1971. REPORTEDLY, HE "EXHORTED" STUDENTS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION SO THAT THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO UNIFICATION OF EGYPTIAN RANKS. IN Q AND A PERIOD, PRIMIN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH OPEN-DOOR ECONOMIC POLICY AND HOW IT WILL ENSURE SUPREME NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL OBJECTIVES. HE SEEMS TO HAVE COUCHED HIS WORDS DIRECTLY TO REFUTE THOSE WHO ADVOCATE NASSERIST-ARAB SOCIALISM.

3. STUDENT GROUP WAS ALSO ADDRESSED BY ASU FIRST SECRETARY, YOUTH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, AND DEPRIMIN/MIN HIGHER EDUCATION, ALL OF WHOM, LIKE PRIMIN, HAVE SPOKEN SEVERAL TIMES TO STUDENT GROUPS IN LAST THREE WEEKS. IF ANY EVIDENCE WERE NEEDED, THIS HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION TO STUDENT PROBLEMS DEMONSTRATES GOE CONCERN FOR POTENTIAL STUDENT CRITICISM, BOTH OF SADAT'S INTERNAL ECONOMIC POLICIES AND OF POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF SINAI II. DEPRIMIN GHANIM, UNDERLINING GOE'S PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR TRADITIONALLY ACTIVE PALESTINIAN STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES, HAD SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 16 WITH FATAH REP, AWAD, TO DISCUSS ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITIES OF PALESTINIAN STUDENTS.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS UNIVERSITIES WILL OPEN ON SCHEDULE TOMORROW THOUGH LAST MINUTE DECISION TO POSTPONE IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE. WE BELIEVE CAMPUS POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS ARE LIKELY WITHIN FIRST FEW DAYS AFTER CONVOCATION AND THERE MAY BE SPECIAL PLANS PROVOKE TROUBLE DURING SADAT'S ABSENCE FROM EGYPT. HOURS OF TIME SPENT BY GOE ELITE WITH STUDENTS SUGGEST GOE SHARES THIS VIEW  
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AND IS ENDEAVORING--RATHER FRENETICALLY--TO STOP TROUBLE BEFORE IT STARTS. CAMPUS GUARDS HAVE BEEN BRIEFED TO EXPECT VIOLENCE AND WILL MOVE QUICKLY AND FIRMLY IF NECESSARY.

5. DEPUTY PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER OTEIFI, WHO ATTENDED SPAKER MART'S RECENT BRIEFING OF STUDENT LEADERS, SAYS CATEGORICALLY THAT CURRENT STUDENT UNION OFFICERS ARE SOLIDLY PRO-SADAT AND THAT SOME OF GOE'S BRIEFING SESSIONS INVOLVE SUGGESTED TECHNIQUES FOR

CONTROL OF RADICAL LEFT. OTEIFI, LIKE SOME OTHER SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS, (REFTTEL), BELIEVES GOE WILL USE STUDENTS FROM RELIGIOUS RIGHT TO CONFRONT SADAT'S NASSERIST AND MARXIST CRITICS ON CAMPUSES. THAT CURRENT STUDENT UNION LEADERSHIP IS INDEED PRO-GOE IS GIVEN SOME CREDENCE BY ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY BY MIN HIGHER EDUCATION THAT NEW STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS WILL BE POSTPONED FOR TWO WEEKS. THIS WILL ENSURE ELECTIONS ARE NOT COMPLETED BEFORE SADAT RETURNS FROM HIS TRAVELS.

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO ASSESS REAL POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF CURRENT STUDENT LEADERSHIP, ESPECIALLY GIVEN LIKELIHOOD THAT PALESTINIAN STUDENTS WILL WORK ENERGETICALLY TO RADICALIZE THEIR COLLEAGUES, FRESHMEN STUDENTS IN PARTICULAR. WE KNOW THAT ANTI-GOE FORCES BEGAN AT LEAST THREE WEEKS AGO TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES; PRO-SADAT STUDENT LEADERS MAY BELIEVE THEY NEED TIME TO GET THEIR POINTS ACROSS TO NON-POLITICIZED MAJORITY OF STUDENT BODY.

7. SADAT HIMSELF WILL SPEAK TO NEW PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SESSION EVENING OF OCTOBER 18. PRESS HAS BILLED THIS SPEECH AS "POLITICAL," AND OTEIFI CONFIRMS SUBJECTS WILL INCLUDE NOT ONLY EGYPTIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT ALSO INTERNAL POLITICIES. WE EXPECT PRESIDENT WILL NOT NEGLECT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS A FEW WORDS OF CAUTION TO STUDENTS OF LEFTIST TENDENCIES, JUST AS HE DID ON SEPTEMBER 28. WE WILL MONITOR THIS SPEECH AND SEND SUMMARY AND COMMENTS BY NIACT IMMEDIATE IF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WARRANT IMMEDIATE REPORTING.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, UNIVERSITIES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CAIRO10432  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750361-0983  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 CAIRO 10283  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UNIVERSITIES OPEN TOMORROW - TROUBLE EXPECTED  
**TAGS:** PINT, SEDU, EG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006